

Testimony of:

Corey Hannahs

**Michigan House of Representatives
Committee on Workforce and Talent Development**

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Chairman Johnson and Members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today.

My name is Corey Hannahs and I am a member of the Michigan Electrical Administrative Board. In addition to serving on the state electrical board, I am a certified master electrician, electrical instructor and electrical contractor executive. It is also my honor to represent my family as a third-generation electrician from the Mid-Michigan area. I am here in support of House Bill 4813 to ensure better flexibility for more electrical apprentices to enter the electrical trade.

There is no doubt that Michigan is facing a workforce shortage for many good paying skilled trades jobs. Unfortunately, the current rigid ratio requirements for the electrical industry are only making this problem worse.

Fortunately, the legislation in front of you today can help our industry and put Michigan on better footing by encouraging rigorous apprenticeship training that will allow 2 apprentices (as long as they are in a bona fide US Department of Labor approved training program) to work under a journeyman or master electrician. Skilled trades education is further supported by allowing a third qualified apprentice if he or she has completed at least three years of approved training.

This is a common sense solution and a good alternative to the current one-to-one mandate that has proven to be unrealistic and unnecessary. For decades Michigan did not have the current one-to one ratio and that system worked much better than the current system.

Simply put, there is no reason to continue a practice that doesn't work as well as the process that came before it.

Moreover, by allowing a third apprentice --if he or she is in their 4th year of training--we can better encourage greater flexibility and more apprenticeships. This third apprentice has a higher level of experience to provide additional support on a jobsite to other apprentices who may be less experienced.

In short, this is a good bill that will help attract Michigan citizens to great careers in the electrical industry, while also helping employers meet the growing demand for more staff as the state's construction climate improves.

I encourage you to support this common sense legislation that encourages more job opportunities and incentivizes great job training that comes with apprenticeships in the electrical industry.

Thank you for your time today and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.